

Driver and Operator Meeting 2 October 2023

Firstly thank you to those that took time out of their day to attend the meeting.

Tariff Review

The main views regarding the tariff were:

1. Increase rate 1 by inflation
2. Keep the tariff the same for rate 1 and reduce rate 2 slightly or move the rate to start later e.g. 11pm
3. No change

Please email taxi@broxbourne.gov.uk with your preference (or an alternative suggestion) by 11 October 2023.

Uber

We received a petition from a number of drivers asking the Council to block or ban Uber in the Borough.

It would be difficult for Broxbourne Council to block Uber operating in the area for the following reasons:

1. Uber has the powers to operate in Broxbourne. In recent years it has faced challenges with other authorities and black cabs but it has been able to continue operating.
2. The petition doesn't set any reasons or grounds for Broxbourne as a Licensing Authority to block Uber.
3. We have not come across any Licensing Authorities being successful or that tried to block Uber from operating. There have been some notes in respect of Licensing Authorities outside greater London requesting operator licence but no bans and restrictions noted.

If the petition holders are referring to this case law or other reasons, we will consider their position in detail and the above cited case law.

It was brought up at the meeting that Uber drivers park at Cheshunt station in the evening on double yellow lines. This has been reported to the Council's parking control section. If there is a particular time or place where you see illegal parking then we will pass this intel on.

If you see a licensed vehicle parked on our rank that is not a Broxbourne licensed vehicle, please take a clear photo of the vehicle parked on the rank and it will be forwarded to the relevant enforcement team.

If you believe 'touting' is being carried out by Uber drivers at a particular place and time each week e.g. outside a particular pub, please forward this information to us. We can then forward this information to TFL enforcement. We have confirmed that we cannot enforce against TFL drivers, only TFL enforcement officers can.

Leaving vehicles unattended on ranks

It was raised by a couple of drivers that they had received parking tickets while either leaving their vehicle to take a comfort break or to help a passenger with shopping to their vehicle.

You can leave your vehicle (if you have a Hackney carriage vehicle) unattended on a rank for a short period to do either of the above. Therefore if you receive a parking ticket, you will need to appeal as detailed on the ticket, but also notify the Taxi Licensing Team and we will forward a letter of support for your appeal. We do not have the power to cancel the ticket, only the parking enforcement team do.

However you are not permitted to leave the vehicle to go shopping or have lunch for example. The rank should keep moving forward as and when passengers arrive and taxis depart.

Positioning of Ranks

It was raised that the ranks should be moved to train and bus stations. As there are already operators based at the stations and the land is not owned by the Council this would not be implemented.